

CITY OF MILPITAS  
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC)  
MILPITAS CITY HALL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES  
MARCH 26, 2015

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call** Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners present: Arbaugh, Arefi, Chen, Grilli, Mateo, Serpa. Alternate Commissioner present: Chang, P.
- Council Liaison Grilli: Present  
MHS Student Liaison Mikayla Horyza: Present  
MUSD Liaison Gunawan Alisantosa: Absent  
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe: Present
- II. Alternates Seating of** No Alternate Commissioners were seated.
- III. Allegiance Pledge of** Conducted by Chair Grilli.
- IV. Minutes** MOTION to approve the minutes of February 26, 2015 with correction to Item 1: It is the City of Santa Clara that provides \$5,000 per year to an association.  
M / S: Serpa / Arbaugh Ayes: All
- V. Agenda** MOTION to approve the agenda of March 26, 2015.  
M / S: Serpa / Mateo Ayes: All
- MOTION to move the item for Seongnam to the top of the agenda.  
M / S: Mateo / Chen Ayes: All
- VI. Announcements:** Staff reported that she attended the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> California-Japan Sister City at the Japanese Consulate. She further noted interest from San Juan, Philippines and Jilia City, City.
- VII. Public Forum:** None.
- VIII. New Business**
- 1. By-laws change to Reserve Seat for a Milpitas Corporate Representative**  
Staff reviewed concept of reserving a seat for a representative from a corporation, such as a high tech or financial firm. By-laws changes require Council approval so a recommendation is needed from the SCC to move this forward. Discussion followed regarding commission procedures for this reserved seat.

MOTION to recommend amending a change to the by-laws of the SCC to reserve a seat for a corporate representative to the Council.

M / S: Arbaugh / Arefi

Ayes: All

## **2. International Park Concept at Tom Evatt Park**

Steve McHarris, Planning Director reviewed a sketch of the proposed park with the SCC. He focused on the easterly part of the park, particularly on an oval portion between Main Street and the railroad tracks. He requested comments from the SCC, noting that all comments from commissions will be forwarded to the Council. Chair Grilli confirmed that Milpitas sister cities will be invited to participate in the park. Discussion followed regarding policy of political or controversial issues represented in the park. It was noted that a criteria needs to be developed that assesses the message of a proposed display and that the Council should have review and approval of all displays placed in the park. A process needs to be established such that Parks, Recreation, Cultural Resources Commission would have primary responsibility with the SCC having a review after PRCRC, even though there would be cities / countries involved that are not sister cities. It was also noted that review should also go to the Community Advisory Commission. The idea of flag poles in the park to fly flags of other nations and international cities.

## **IX. Old Business**

### **3. Seongnam City, Request for Sister City Relationship**

Staff explained direction from the City Manager for the visit on April 8, which will start at 4PM: The two city mayors will sign a Letter of Intent for a Friendship City. This is a non-binding letter that declares a friendship and not a sister city relationship. There will be 16 members of Mayor Lee's delegation and it's hoped commission members will attend. Also, there will be a reception at the Sheraton Hotel that evening starting at 6PM. Discussion followed regarding MOUs with other Milpitas sister cities in comparison with the draft proposed by Seongnam staff. The Staff Liaison noted that she talked with the staff liaison of the Economic Development Commission, who recommends that an EDC member attend SCC meetings to report back on necessary actions, if any, needed for economic development actions for sister city relationships. The SCC then discussed the past research and parameters of a sister city relationship with Seongnam City.

MOTION to recommend Seongnam City as a sister city to the City Council.

M / S: Arefi / Chen

Ayes: Grilli, Mateo, Arefi, Arbaugh, Chen

Abstain: Serpa

### **4. Fundraising & Promotions Subcommittee**

Commissioner Arefi reported that he approached two cities regarding their sister city programs: Mountain View and Commissioner Arbaugh suggested that an action plan be recommended to the SCC to start fundraising. Commissioner Arefi stated that in his research, all cities use an association for fundraising. Staff stated that she will

check with the City Attorney's Office regarding availability to assist a new association with 501 (c) 3 paperwork. A concern was raised regarding the liability of being part of a non-profit organization. It was decided that the subcommittee will provide a recommendation by April 9. Staff offered to meet with subcommittee members to help draft a plan.

**5. Research of Possible Sister City Relationship in Latin America**

No report.

**6. E-Pal Project with Sister Cities**

No report.

**7. Tsukuba City, Japan**

No report.

**8. Dagupan City, Philippines**

No report.

**9. Huizhou Municipality, China**

No report.

**X. Student Liaison Report**

The Student Liaison reported that she conducted a brief survey. There was interest in visiting China (6), two were not interest and four suggested places to visit in China. Commissioner Arbaugh asked that she survey for interest in Seongnam City.

**XI. City Council Liaison Report - None**

**XII. School District Liaison Report – None**

**XIII. Future Agenda Items – Reviewed with these changes:**

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
  - i. Tsukuba, Japan
  - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
  - iii. Huizhou, China
2. Sign Noting Sister Cities in City Plaza

**XII. Adjournment**

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. until the regular meeting of April 23, 2015.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting of February 26, 2015 to the regular meeting of April 23, 2015.

M / S: Serpa / Mateo

Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Stobbe  
Staff Liaison